



Maryland
Energy
Administration

TO: Members, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Paul Pinsky - Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB 123 - Vehicle Laws – HOV Lanes – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles
DATE: March 22, 2023

MEA Position: FAVORABLE

House Bill 123, as amended by the House Environment and Transportation Committee, will reinstate a program through which certain plug-in electric drive vehicles (PEVs) would be permitted to use high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes within the State.

This program is a low-cost, or even revenue-neutral incentive for the purchase and use of a PEV. By allowing certain qualified vehicles and their drivers to utilize HOV lanes, Maryland will help promote the use of PEVs, and help us collectively achieve our goals for zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption, as well as assist our pursuit of the bold environmental goals established by the Climate Solutions Now Act.

MEA is supportive of the committee amendments developed in coordination with the Department of Motor Vehicles (MDoT) that alter the sunset date, and give MDoT flexibility in designing the PEV HOV permit.

MEA commends the sponsor for working so closely with State Agencies on the development of, and amendments to, this legislation. For the foregoing reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report.